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The Illinois State Fair—1869.

It has been our privilege to be present at every State Fair of Illinois, except the first two, which were held at Springfield, nor have we ever been an idle spectator; but active in labor and observation. This is not written in a spirit of egotism, but simply to bring to mind the fact, that unless we are a very stupid blockhead indeed, we must be able to make a comparison, and come to some reasonable conclusion. We do assert that the fair of 1869 was a great success in every respect; but it must not, therefore, be understood that it could not have been better in some departments—for instance, in the Floral, Garden and Dairy. When, however, it is taken into consideration, that Decatur (the place where the fair is held) is but a small city near which there are no extensive green-houses or nurseries; that for florists to expose choice plants to long railroad carriage is very hazardous, especially when also exposed to frosts—the dearth in this class can be accounted for. The same reasons may (in part at least) be assigned for the deficiency in the gardeners' department, in which a man from Chicago and another from Rockford made the principal exhibitions: though Champlain was fairly represented, and carried off some of the premiums.

As far as dairying is concerned, we believe there are no large dairies near Decatur, and not many farmers from a distance entered the list of competitors. Butter and cheese bring too good a price at present to expose them to the trier and the knife of the committees, unless there are large and liberal premiums to draw them out. The stock and beef interest in the State Agricultural Board has always overshadowed the dairy interest, and consequently this department has never been very largely represented. With these exceptions, every department we had time to notice, was well up to, and in some respects much ahead of, former efforts—especially in cattle, horses, swine and implements. It was our special pleasure to walk about amongst the various labor-saving implements, invented to lighten the burden of severe toil, either in the house, the field, or the shop—and Illinois may well be proud of her manufacturers and inventors; they have accomplished a great deal. There were no premiums on plows, reapers nor

mowers, and there should not be unless there could be at the same time an actual field test

The attendance was very large, 25,000 being a low estimate for the number of visitors present on Thursday, consequently, there was also great financial success. The receipts (we believe) will be \$5,000 in excess of those of any previous fair—say about \$22,000 gross—which will leave a handsome balance in the Treasurer's hands, after the premiums and the necessary expenses are paid. Illinois is a great State, and in the van in agriculture—which is her greatest interest. Long may she flourish!

THE IMPLEMENT TRIAL.

Under Direction of the State Board of Agriculture.

The State Board of Agriculture, having duly considered the importance of regular field trials for the implements used on the farm, as the only reliable proof of their practical utility, did order such a trial, to come off on the morning of each day during the St. Louis fair, and on or near the fair grounds. As far as the manufacturers were concerned, the time was well chosen; but not so for those who had to devote their time and strength to this trial and labor hard, while others enjoyed a season of recreation. But, it was cheerfully done; and, if it shall result—as we sincerely hope it may—in some real good to the farmers, all will feel amply repaid for the effort they have made.

The Trial, as a first effort, must be declared successful, because—first, there were enough manufacturers or agents, who had sufficient faith in their own machines, to make lively competition in every class, and the implements competing were of superior merit—all of them—and had it not been for a scale of points, the committees never could have come to a fair decision. Secondly, President Mudd gave his entire attention, and with rare judgment selected most excellent and competent gentlemen for the committees. These gentlemen were not known to the Secretary, and certainly knew not themselves that they would be called on to serve; hence, any charge at collusion or bribery is simply folly. Neither were they interested in the Fair proper, nor laboring for its success directly or indirectly—because the Fair Grounds' Association are abundantly able to paddle their

own canoe, and know how to do it; besides, the manufacturers or their agents, that should have competed, were at the fair at any rate, contributing to its exhibition and aiding it financially.

In a full competition somebody must always be disappointed, and there are many such at every fair. If there are twenty competitors for two premiums, there are eighteen that cannot possibly get one. The writer so informed the eleven competitors for the awards on *old-ground plows*. Nine must be disappointed; but that did not hinder those who knew the merits of their plows to *sail in* and try to win; and when it is known that a half point decided the issue (in one case at least), it is not much to be beaten and a great deal to have contested the prize.—The Board have done what was in their power fairly and honestly, and here we rest.

The first day's trial was for Breaking Plows. We have various kinds of soils in Missouri and the West. It was not stated that it should be plows only adapted for breaking prairie; hence several kinds of breaking plows were introduced. It was not the province of the Secretary to exclude any one. The plows had a very fair and satisfactory trial, and the competitors knew that, on a scale of thirty-five points, quality of work was to count *twenty*. They were not limited as to time; and, throughout, the various committees—not only for the first, but for every day—gave plenty of time to tinker, if necessary—we thought often too much. They were furnished with excellent committees, two members of which are members of the State Board of Agriculture: they were men above suspicion. The first premium on Breaking Plows was given to F. T. Woodford, of Utica, New York; while the second was given (and well merited too) to the Industrial Plow Manufacturing Co., of St. Louis.

The trial for Gang Plows was held on the second day (Wednesday) in a market garden, in soil that was very mellow and deep. Clover sod would no doubt have been more acceptable to the competitors, but the Board wisely considered that it was not to be an easy, but a *severe* test. Out of four entries, three came to the trial. They all worked admirably and well.—When the committee were satisfied, they gave the first premium to Robert Newton, of Jerseyville, Ill. We understand that there are several hundred of these plows in Jersey and adjoining counties, busily employed in turning over the prairies. The second premium was given to Doyle & Curtis, of Bradford, Stark county, Ill.

The Old-Ground Plows, or rather their makers, also thought that a stubble field would have furnished a better place to try the plows: the Board thought that market gardens must, of necessity, also be plowed, and ordered them forward. At it they went; the plows were set to go beam-deep, and mules and horses got all they wanted in a few rounds. That piece of land was never so well plowed; but we can get the evidence only in next year's crop. The first premium was given to the Industrial Plow Co., of St. Louis; the second to Dodge, Kimbal & Austins, of Kalamazoo, Mich.

The third day's trial commenced with Harrows. There were four entries, one of which

would have obtained a premium if entered as a new implement, it being a roller and harrow combined. The blue ribbon was given Monroe's Improved Rotary Harrow. It adjusts itself to the surface of the land and clears itself by its rotary motion.

After the Harrows came the Rollers. Two of the best we have ever seen, were tried, both well adapted to the purpose. The material used in their construction decided the committee, who preferred iron to wood. The first premium was given to J. W. Dilly, Macomb, Ill.; the second to O. B. Colcord, Greenville, Ill.

Only two Seed Drills entered the contest, and the Buckeye (sold by Barnum & Bro.) obtained the first award.

For Corn Planters, there were several entries. The first premium was awarded to Joshua Wood & Co. (this Planter also took the premium of the Association); the second, to Haworth & Sons, Decatur, Ill.

This latter has an ingenious device, consisting of a cord and pulleys, by which any piece of ground can be check-rowed without first marking it out, thus saving much labor.

The fourth day, Riding Two-horse Cultivators were first tried. First premium to Thomas & Mast, of Springfield, Ohio; the second, to Jas. Armstrong, Elmira, Ill.

After these, Walking Two-horse Cultivators, and premiums given as follows: first to Weir Plow Co., Monmouth, Ill.; second, to Barnum & Bro., St. Louis.

On Trench plows, the Industrial Plow Manufacturing Co., of St. Louis obtained the first premium. Same Company obtained a first premium on Double and Triple Shovel plows.

This was the last of the trial of soil-stirring implements, which will be reported with names of committees and illustrations in the next annual report of the Secretary.

#### Lead Poison in Flour.

A correspondent writes to ask what is the best cement for filling openings in mill stones. We answer that for this purpose, bees-wax, tallow and alum, slowly melted, and mixed with some pulverized burr, is preferable to any other.—When stones become so worn as to require this, it is best to procure new ones. It is a frequent and very dangerous custom with many millers to pour melted lead into the openings of the burrs, ignorant of the fatal consequences that may ensue. The general management of mills is often very foolishly left in the hands of operatives, some of whom are the most self-opinionated and ignorant of men. We will give a few instances, out of several cases we know of, where fatal results have followed from this system.—Recently a mill owner in Philadelphia engaged a miller to take charge of his establishment. He immediately commenced changing everything in the mill according to his own plans; beginning with the millstones. He thought the furrows too deep, and set about making them shallow by filling them with lead. The flour from this mill was sent to the New York market and sold. About that time several persons in this city were taken suddenly ill. The doctor attributed their illness to lead poison which was found in the flour used by them, and traced to this very mill. A similar case, but attended with more fatal results, occurred in Orange Co., in this State, not long since. A miller there also filled the openings of his burrs with lead. Of the consumers of his flour many died and several were injured for life from the effects of the poison. The man was utterly ruined, owing to the numerous actions for damages brought against him. This is a subject of vital importance to the entire community, and should receive the attention of all millers throughout the Union.—*Milling Journal*.

#### FALL PLOWING.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: You little know what interest many of your readers are looking from time to time for accounts of the proceedings of the newly-established Farmers' Club. Just allow me to remind you of the fact, that many of our farmers have but just emerged from the workshop, or the store, or are newly arrived immigrants, who, if they are fortunate enough to gain possession of such a paper as yours, are in many cases thankful to eat up every atom of information they can get, feeling assured that this may be a means of preventing them paying too dearly for their own inexperienced or misguided plans. Now, I cannot help thinking that these published accounts of the talkings and discussions of the Farmers' Club, will be one of the topics most earnestly looked for in your paper, and will at the same time be productive of great good—for I believe that, if only one or two in a whole neighborhood should determine upon improvement in their present method of farming, their example would soon be followed by their neighbors, and a complete reformation would be the result. I was sorry to find, from the last report, that there was a feeling of disappointment, in seeing fewer in attendance at the last meeting than was anticipated; yet I think there are but few of your readers who thought any more of the numbers in attendance, when they read the topics which engaged the attention of those present, and the way in which they were discussed.

Though I feel myself almost out of place in attempting to add one word to what has already been said on the subject of autumn plowing, never having had much to do with Jonathan's lands, crops or climate; but, having had a little to do with Old John's, I thought that if, by telling what little I had seen and experienced in the cultivation of his lands would be likely to lead to one good suggestion, I should be pleased.

First, with regard to clayey soil. The general practice is, as soon as the crop is harvested, if there are many weeds left on the land, to at once turn a flock of sheep upon it, to clear off what they will; then, if there is much of what we call twitch—that is, *Triticum repens*—or other such root pests, the ground is well scuffled both ways; then if, after this, we get a few weeks' hot sun, the greater part is killed. After this it is well plowed (deeply), taking care to draw the mold-board of the plow in rather narrow, so that it leaves the sods standing almost upright; this gives the sun a chance to finish its work with the weeds—also the winter's frosts to clear the land of insects and to mellow the soil, and thus make it fit to receive the seed in the spring, after having had the harrow run over it. Again, if water is likely to stand upon it, it is always best plowed into narrow lands, taking care to leave each furrow clean, and plenty of out-lets across the head-lands into the ditch, so that there is nothing to prevent the water running off as fast as it comes on. If the land be poor and light, then folding sheep upon it as much as possible, fed with hay, roots and corn, will be found to be one of the finest dressings, and to be one of the best means of securing an abundant crop. This land is generally plowed one day, drilled and harrowed the next. In this way the crop has a chance to keep ahead of the weeds.

I would now say keep on meeting, introducing and discussing such subjects, and we, who cannot attend, must ever feel grateful to those who so kindly give so much of their time and attention for the benefit of the farmer. J. CERNY.

Tower Grove, Oct. 6.



[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

**A Rambler in the Cotton States—No. 1.**

Jackson, Tenn., and Surrounding Country—Agriculturists Waking-up—Disgusted Citizens—Staple Products—Crop Prospects for this Season.

One among the most interesting little cities in the South is, Jackson, Tenn., situated on the Mobile and Ohio railroad. It is in the midst of a fine agricultural country—one whose soil and climate is suited to the production of almost everything grown outside of the tropics—and its citizens seem to appreciate these facts, as well each other—consequently, the city and surrounding country are rapidly improving together.

This portion of the South, like most other parts of it, was thrown entirely back by the late war; but, those sad effects are now rapidly passing away, and the people—especially the agriculturists—are beginning to wake up in real earnest. They are even throwing off the old foggy spirit that existed in days gone by, and are coming out on the side of science and modern improvements. Farmers' Clubs are organized and holding their regular meetings all over the country within a few miles of each other, and much good seems to be growing therefrom.

The population of this region is rapidly changing; the old citizens, that were of the "flint-lock" order, are becoming disgusted and working back, and giving place to the new comers. I had a talk with one of them to-day, and found the thing really entertaining.

"Oh!" said he, "the country's ruined! Too much book stuff a comin' in here to ever do any good! Why, sir, before the war, an' before these railroads got in here, we was a mortal site happier people than we are now."

"How was that?" I asked.

"Easy enough:" he went on, "we had our little fields, and we made enough to live, on 'em, and to keep our niggers—and that was all we wanted. We had our shooting matches, and our races, and our good times generally; but, thar's none of them now."

"Why?" I inquired.

"Because its all pull and haul to see who can get rich the fastest. A man must do it whether he wants to or not, or he won't be thought anything of: and its all schools, and colleges, and farmers' clubs, and debating societies, and reaping machines, and threshers, and cultivators, and *Rural World*—that and *Prairie Farmer*; this and *Model Farmer*—the other! I tell you it won't do, sir! the country is busted! I'm a-going to Arkansas, I am; and I think every sensible man will do the same thing."

I told him that I did not blame him for it—nor do—but, even in Arkansas, he should be very particular about selecting his location, for there are a number of railroads soon to be built in that State.

The staple products of the region around Jackson are, corn, wheat, tobacco and cotton. Corn does exceedingly well; but wheat, though making a fair yield, does not fill so well as at points further North. Tobacco does well, and so does cotton; the latter is the most grown.—Of course it is not so good a cotton country as further down; and still it is better. While the

seasons are rather short, the planters have a great advantage over their southern brothers in the fact, that the crop is never troubled by insects. The caterpillars and boll-worms, so destructive along the Gulf, are never seen here. Pea-nuts grow very well in this latitude, and all of the temperate fruits succeed to perfection.

The crop prospects in this locality are now very good. Corn, on account of the late drouth, will fall a little short of last year's yield; but cotton will come over it. The planters are just beginning to pick, and they assure me, that if the frost keeps off a reasonable length of time, they will make more cotton than was ever before grown in this part of Tennessee.

J. PARISH STELLE.

JACKSON, TENN., Sept. 30th, 1869.

**NOXIOUS WEEDS.**

COL. N. J. COLMAN—Dear Sir: The Noxious Weeds seem to claim a good deal of attention through the papers just now, especially the Cockle Bur (*Xanthium strumarium*). This plant is not usually troublesome in the fields until the farmer ceases his regular summer plowing; it then begins to grow and grows rapidly in time to make seed before frost. I have a field where oats grew during the present season, and since the crop was reaped, the Cockle Bur has grown up very thickly.

Last summer I noticed, in Piatt Co., Illinois, a lot of a few acres which was entirely covered with the plant growing from two to three feet high. Outside of the inclosure there were scarcely any. This was at the edge of a prairie, and had probably never been plowed, but had been used only as a cattle pen.

A few weeks ago I found growing on a roadside near the edge of a prairie ravine, four miles north of Austin, in Cass county, several plants which I refer to the variety *Xanthium echinatum*; the bur was much larger than that of the common Cockle Bur. This is known to grow in Texas, and I can only suppose that it was brought here by the Texas cattle. It is the only place I have seen them growing in Missouri.

We are much troubled with Morning Glories this year, as we are every year. Among them are several species of *Ipomaea* and *Calistegia*, with white, pink and purple flowers, some of them very beautiful. The August rains have forced them to grow very rank; they have spread over my melon vines so as to check their bearing, and twined around my corn for many acres so as to be very troublesome. Growing so rapidly, we find it difficult to get rid of them, especially among other vines. Most of the species have spread from cultivated vines. I wish seedsmen could be prohibited from selling the seed unless to persons planting in large cities.

The Burdock has troubled me a great deal; but I watch them closely and cut them up wherever found. Three years ago my yard was covered with it; but, by close watching, I have nearly eradicated it.

The Dog Fennel (*Maruta cotula*) was very troublesome a few years ago, but the grasshoppers killed the plants two years ago; but the Jamestown and *Datura stramonium* have taken its place in waste ground.

Another very troublesome plant in fields is, the *Abutilon avicenne*, growing very rank, in rich, cultivated fields, watching every opportunity of neglect in plowing, to grow up. Its stalk is tough to cut, owing to the hemp-like fibre of its bark, which is quite strong.

The Nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) and Horse Nettle (*S. Carolinense*), I do not find very troublesome.

G. C. BROADHEAD.

PLEASANT HILL, Mo., Sept. 27th, 1869.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

**JAPAN SPRING WHEAT.**

I received last spring, from Henry S. Spaulding, an old friend and fellow student in college, now living in New Jersey, a tablespoonful of *Japan Spring Wheat*—a new thing to me. I put the seed in the ground, at late corn planting time, and have harvested three barrels in the pod. It looks as if I would have a bushel of clean wheat. This is certainly a large yield, and I am pleased with the prospect. I send you a specimen enclosed. Here is what Mr. Spaulding writes when sending the seed:

"The Japan wheat should be grown on the same soil as corn or sorghum, and precisely the same way as sorghum: rows 3½ feet apart, and 2 feet in the row; two stalks in the hill. I raised six bushels from less than one pint of seed. Cut the tops off when ripe, and spread them so they will dry thoroughly before threshing. It is necessary to be particular about drying it.—The flour is a pinkish color. I make cakes with it by using sour milk and soda; I like them better than buckwheat cakes—have had them raise to the thickness of one-and-one eighth inches, with the batter the consistency that buckwheat batter is usually made. The stalks are eaten readily by cattle."

This is all we know about Japan wheat. Who will tell us more about it? O. L. BARLER.

REMARKS—We have grown the article, but find nothing in it to commend it for general cultivation. It was sold at the rate of about \$32 a pound some years ago, and the "take in" in the case, perhaps prejudiced us against it; but, saving for chicken feed, we see no use for it—and don't grow it for that. The idea of its being, in any sense, a "spring wheat," we class as a base imposition. Its proper name is, perhaps, Egyptian Corn.—Eds.

**Fencing in Stock.**

COL. COLMAN: I am fully satisfied you are the farmer's friend, and are constantly assisting him in some shape or other. But, there is one thing slow to mature—a Stock Law. It is generally conceded that it is a nice thing for a man to attend to his own business. Would it not be a very nice thing if every man would attend to his own stock? I am of opinion we would have better stock, better neighbors, and save millions of dollars in fencing—that is, in not having to fence our cultivated fields. I have noticed the subject in your columns for a great while, called up probably by some like myself, that have fenced more than the loose stock in their neighborhood was worth, and still suffer loss every year from their depredations. Could you not suggest some plan upon which the people could act? It would be one of the greatest blessings you ever conferred, if you could bring such a law about. If the Legislature would not pass it, they could submit it to the people at least. They certainly would pass it.

W. C. McK., Shivelton, Mo.

### Cleansing Seed Wheat.

COL. COLMAN: I see in the meeting of the "St. Louis Farmers' Club," of the 11th inst., suggestions as to the best modes for cleansing seed wheat, and I desire to communicate one which I have tried and found to be very serviceable:

Sink a box, with perforated bottom, in a strong current of water, so that the water will pass over the box several inches. With a vessel, pour the wheat slowly through the water into the box, and by this means all unsound, light wheat, will float off, as well as chaff, oats, and any other foul seeds lighter than the sound wheat. The box can be worked with a lever so that it may be readily sunken and raised, and the wheat washed, without scarcely being wet enough to require care in drying. With one hand to aid me, I have poured in the box seven bushels and found it not difficult to raise clear of the water. J. M., Jr., Pocahontas, Ark.

### Sheep Skin Mats.

The following is for two skins, and if the directions are faithfully followed, will make something nice:

Make strong soap suds, using hot water, and let it stand till cold; then wash the skins in it, carefully squeezing out all the dirt from among the wool; then wash them in cold water till all the soap is out. Next dissolve half a pound each of salt and alum in a little hot water, and put into a tub of cold water sufficient to cover the skins, and let them soak twelve hours; then hang over a pole to drain. When well drained, stretch carefully on a board to dry. Stretch several times while drying. Before they get entirely dry, sprinkle on the flesh side one ounce each of finely pulverized alum and saltpetre, rubbing it in well; then lay the flesh sides together and hang in the shade for two or three days, turning them over every day till perfectly dry.

Finish by scraping the flesh side with a blunt knife, to remove any remaining scraps of flesh, and then rub the flesh side with pumice, or rotten stone, with the hands. Very beautiful mittens can be made of lamb skins tanned as above.—Country Gent.

### Collecting Manure from Cow Yards.

Talk to a farmer about the value of manure, and the importance of collecting and saving it for future use, and he is astonished that any one should suspect that he is not master of that subject, and practiced it to the last shovelful. Then take a walk with him to his summer cow-yard, where the milking is done mornings and evenings, and the lane leading to it—and you will find the droppings of perhaps six months or a year scattered about and tramped into the dust, and partially washed away by the rains, to the amount of cart loads. One cart load of this is worth more than two from the barn-yard, as any practical gardener will tell you. But, the farmer looks upon these droppings—many of which are reduced to powder—as beneath his notice. There is a waste that might have added ten bushels of wheat to his granary, or a ton of hay to his hay-mow, if it had been collected every week and properly applied.

One hour's labor every week would have saved all this, which would have been worth more in producing crops than a ton of so-called phosphate, at a cost of \$60 in cash. These droppings always make their mark when applied to the land—the phosphates not always.

These remarks do not apply to all farmers; there are many honorable exceptions, and their fields show it to their advantage—but, there are too many to whom it will apply, and their fields tell a tale too, but not much to their credit.—We hope some of them will take the hint and do better in future. Fields are terrible tell-tales.—Stock Journal.

## The Apiary.

[Reported for Colman's Rural World.]

### Missouri State Bee-keepers' Association.

ADJOURNED MEETING FROM SEPT. TENTH.

An adjourned meeting of the interests of Bee Culture, was held at the Room of the State Board of Agriculture on the 6th of October, and was well attended. The State at large was represented; also there were representatives from Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The following CONSTITUTION was adopted: ARTICLE I. This Association shall be known as "THE BEE KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI."

II. The object of the Association shall be the advancement of the science of Bee Culture, by all means within the reach of the Association.

III. Any person may become a member of the Association by signing this Constitution and paying into the treasury the sum of one dollar annually.

IV. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, whose duties shall be those usually assigned to such officers. They shall hold their office for one year and until their successors are elected.

V. The President and Secretary shall form an Executive Committee, with power to call such special meetings as may be found necessary.

VI. The regular meetings of the Association shall be held annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon at the previous annual meeting.

VII. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote, by ballot, of the members present at any regular meeting.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, which resulted as follows:

President, Wm. MUIR, Fox Creek P. O., St. Louis County, Mo.

Vice-President, B. SMITH, Cuba, Crawford Co., Mo. Secretary and Treasurer, L. C. WAITE, 809 North 6th Street, St. Louis, Mo.

#### TRANSFERRING BEES

Formed a subject of conversation. No difficulty was felt in its performance. The whole method was illustrated. A special house was recommended, and a rough description of such a house given by Mr. Trabue.

#### HONEY SOURING IN THE HIVE

Was taken up. It was found that Buckwheat honey had this tendency. The bees will, however, work it over again without difficulty.

#### MOths-PROOF HIVES

Were then noticed. The general feeling was, that strong colonies was the best method of preventing the ravages of the moth. It was urged, on the other side, that, as the taking of the game was received as a good test of the value of a vermin trap—so, in traps for moths, the catching of the moths themselves, should be received as evidence of the value of an invention for that purpose.

#### BEE FORAGE PLANTS.

A. E. Trabue, of Hannibal, Mo., had tried all the forage plants he had heard of. Alsike did not come up to his expectation; sowed 150 acres to it. The first blooms produced a deal of seed which fell, sprouted and was killed out in the winter, giving place to weeds and killing out the grasses Borage and Cleome integrifolia—and some others did not do well. Buckwheat made poor honey. The Raspberry was the best forage plant for bees, and the Philadelphia the best variety.

#### THE DEATH OF THE BEE

During the last two years, was then brought up. Mr. Meador said he had found that bees feeding on sour pollen in a state of decay, was one cause. He noticed that in spring the frost killed the early blooms; the bees kept carrying in the pollen, and he found them dying by the hundred around and in the hive. He noticed the same results follow the injury of the Buckwheat by frost in the fall. Hundreds of bees were dead among the Buckwheat.

#### WINTERING BEES.

A. E. Trabue had wintered bees in the cellar under his kitchen; in a special depository under ground; and in a clamp covered with hay—found little difference in the wintering; lost about the same number of swarms by each mode; the weakest swarms suffered most; thinks a wintering house could be made that would answer a good purpose.

The meeting adjourned till Thursday evening, the 7th inst., at 7 o'clock.

#### THURSDAY EVENING.

The organization of the previous evening, was well maintained, notwithstanding the arduous labors of the days preceding, at the Fair Grounds.

The President opened the meeting in a short address, indicating the direction in which the public mind can be trained in regard to Bee Culture. He explained how, in the present condition of Bee Cul-

ture, men had to purchase a right at from \$5 to \$10 to use a hive, independent of the actual cost of the hive. Such a system stood as a stumbling block in the path to progress. He advocated the trade mark or "Royalty" method, as much more equitable.

To this view, no exceptions were made. After a very full expression of opinion on this subject, the meeting adjourned, subject to the call of the Executive Committee, or to the next annual meeting on Wednesday of the next St. Louis Fair week.

Papers favorable to the movement will please copy the above.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

### Bee Raising a Success.

Armed with the American hive and Bee-keepers' Text Book, I bid defiance to all opposition to bee keeping, the bee-moth to the contrary, notwithstanding. You remember I am but a beginner: did not know a drone from a worker ten months ago; have had nothing but the books to follow in practice—and here I give my success:

Starting with 25 stands in log gums, transferred into the American hive; increased my stock to 60 stands; owing to a disappointment in getting queens, have only 40 Italianized.—Have taken about 600 pounds of honey in comb, which sold for 25 cents—\$150; 700 pounds of box honey, at 30 cents—\$210. Have an average of 50 pounds to the hive now, making a total yield from 60 stands of 4,300 pounds of honey. My bees are now worth—

40 stands Italians, \$20 each,	\$800
20 stands Black, \$10 each,	200
Honey already sold,	360

Total, \$1360

Cost of original stock,	\$100
2 stands Italians, \$20 each,	40
60 new hives, \$3 each,	180

Total, \$320

Gain, \$1040

Which I am satisfied no one can excel in Kidder's, or any other hive; besides, the yield of honey would have been at least 500 pounds greater, had I not interrupted them by giving new queens, and thrown them back in breeding. I had one swarm to come off in June; on the 23d of August it cast a swarm, which I hived, giving it three frames of combs to start on. On the 8th of September I took 25 pounds of honey from it, and now the hive is full—50 pounds at least. Can you beat that?

I have an earnest desire that all farmers should raise bees—the only laborers that work without pay and board themselves. I take this method of informing my friends of my success, and should be glad to hear from them through the columns of the Rural World.

Stephen's Store, Sept. 27th, 1869 J. W. S.

## The Dairy.

### ABORTION IN COWS.

The Commission appointed to inquire into the cause of abortion among cows in the dairy districts of New York have made their report, and the report has been published by the State Agricultural Society. Special attention was given to the different grasses, with the view to determine to what extent they were poisonous under certain circumstances; and, after patient examination, the conclusion was reached that there was no plant in all the collected lists that could be the cause of such frequent abortions. There are diseased plants and plants affected with parasites, but it is not believed that these are the authors of wide-spread disease. Ergot is regarded with suspicion, for the reason that it is known to exert an influence upon the pregnant uterus, and that it is eaten in largest quantity. But in the dairy districts the Commission did not find ergot in sufficient quantity to consider it as the probable cause of the affection. Therefore, to use their own words, "we are forced to a negative conclusion in endeavoring to account for the disease by reason of the introduction of a dele-



terious substance in the food." Food not being the cause of abortion, it was necessary to inquire into the nature of the policy of breeding adopted by the farmers. And the result of this inquiry is to condemn the habit of breeding from immature bulls. The fetus gotten by the young bull may live to be delivered, but it is liable to grow up with a delicate constitution, and, if a heifer, to lack the essential powers of a safe and reliable breeder. Cows that abort this year, it is asserted, are twice as liable to abort next year as those which have carried their calves the full term. The Commission object to removing cows from one farm to another during pregnancy. The change excites the nervous condition of the prospective mother, for the reason that she has been forced to break up old associations, and is thrust into the midst of not only strange scenes but strange companions. Besides, cows, like human beings, are disposed to belligerency when surrounded by a new and curious-eyed crowd, and the fighting that they indulge in is not calculated to promote the welfare of the young life growth in the womb. Cows, therefore, should not be subjected to removal during a state of pregnancy. As the use of young bulls for breeding purposes is strongly objected to, so is the use of young heifers emphatically condemned. If we wish to perpetuate a sound and healthy breed, we must do it through the means of stock fully matured. Beef, as food, is not healthy unless fully ripe, and the male and female are not calculated to stamp vigor upon their progeny when they are in a state of immaturity.

In dairy districts the farmers adopt all kinds of measures to force the largest quantity of milk from each cow. This excessive drain upon the milking capacity, the Commission decide, exerts an injurious influence upon the reproductive apparatus, of which the mammary gland is an important part, and retards the healthful performance of the reproductive process. The essential features in the generative function, we are asked to bear in mind, are the formation of a germ, which, living for a certain period at the expense of the parent, is afterwards detached therefrom, and takes on a separate existence.—And we are all aware that the performance of this function makes large demands upon the nutrition of the parent. When the parent is unable, from any cause, to furnish the proper materials for the maintenance of the germ during the period of development, the germ must suffer. If the arrest of development is complete, the germ dies and is cast off as a foreign substance—this casting off constituting an abortion. But if the arrest is partial, a so-called deformity of some part is the usual consequence. In the truly viviparous animals the germ is retained in the parent until it is able to take an independent existence; and the connection of fetus and parent being so intimate, the former necessarily depends upon the latter for its nutritive supply. As it develops more and more it makes larger demands for nutrition, and this nutrition, we are desired to remember, is furnished more or less directly from the blood of the dam. Now, in the mammalian class of the viviparous animals there is an udder whose function is to secrete food for the nourishment of the young, which food, being in the shape of milk, is also derived from the blood of the parent.

"The uterus and mammary gland," explains the report, "bear a certain inverse relation to each other, with regard to their activity in functions; the one, in the natural condition, being comparatively quiescent when the other is active. In this condition, during the development of the embryo—in other words, the pregnancy of the dam—the uterine organs are in a state of extreme activity, all other parts of the animal economy tending to the proper performance of this function; and the mammary gland, though showing evidences of being influenced by this process, is, in the earlier stages, inactive. But as pregnancy advances to its natural termination, and preparations are being made for the

change that is about to occur, the most marked of these is the increase in the activity of the mammary gland, which either just before or very soon after delivery secretes the milk designed to be the food of the young animal, whenever the more intimate placental connection is severed. The young animal, after birth, at first depends upon the milk entirely for its nourishment; and the supply of blood, before furnished to the placenta, is now directed to the mammary gland. But as the growth of the young animal enables it to look elsewhere for food, it makes less demand upon the dam; the supply of milk diminishes in quantity, and the uterine organs, having had opportunity to return to their previous condition, are again stimulated to the performance of their natural function; and when pregnancy again occurs, the blood is re-directed to the uterus, and the mammary glands diminish in activity, soon become quiescent, and the same series of phenomena are again repeated." By the first process we discover the young animal is nourished during the period of its development, and by the second process fed during the period of its early growth. To support both processes at the same time subjects the animal to an exhaustive drain. The permanent capacity to secrete milk for other use than the nourishment of the young, has been established in the cow by long and careful breeding for generations.

But though man has skillfully moulded a race, he cannot run counter to all the laws of Nature. If we force the uterine reproductive apparatus into activity before the animal has arrived at full maturity, and then continue the drain upon the mammary secretion at the same time the second fetus is demanding its supply by the placenta, we do violence to the natural order of being. "By the first practice," say the Commission, "the uterine reproductive apparatus is weakened, and a liability to abortion established; and by the second, the natural supply of blood, which should go during pregnancy to the uterus to nourish the fetus, is continued to be drawn in the other direction towards the mammary gland—arrest of development from inanition is endangered, and when it occurs, the fetus is expelled as a foreign body."

Right here we discover the cause of the widespread disease. Neither climate nor food is responsible for the evil. Our dairymen keep cows for the sake of the milk and nothing else. They are human, and therefore possess the natural greed for gain. They follow their business for profit, and they labor to get as much from their herds as possible. They breed young, immature stock, because they wish to make them useful. And then they keep up an excessive drain upon the mammary gland, never taking into consideration the advance of another pregnancy, or stopping to think that the animal, to recover its vigor, must enjoy a brief period of rest. The mammary gland and the uterus being intimately connected, the dragging of the former for milk during the later months of pregnancy is a source of irritation to the latter, and tends to excite contractions in the uterus. While this may not be the sole cause of abortion, it is the chief source of evil, and the farmers who practice it should bear in constant remembrance the fable of the goose that laid the golden eggs. Certainly it is not wise to inflict permanent injury for the sake of temporary gain.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

REMARKS.—The above views are corroborated by the fact, that on Western farms very little is known of abortion in cows; because, generally, they go dry from three to five months in each year. But occasionally a case is met with on farms where the dairy has been made a specialty for a number of years. In dairies near large cities, abortion is quite common, even in the West.

We have long been satisfied that the breeding of heifers at an early age, or breeding to a young

and consequently immature bull, is pernicious in its consequences, and can only result in a weakened constitution, diminutive size of offspring, and such evil consequences as abortion and consequent loss. The surety claimed for young bulls is also imaginary, and has no foundation in fact. At any rate those who know, would as soon breed to a three or four-year old as any other age, especially if he had not been abused while young.

## Horse Department.

### A Singular Occurrence.

N. J. COLMAN, Esq.—An old brood mare in this neighborhood was bred, last fall, to a very fine saddle horse, said to be a colt of old Denmark. About two or three months after she was bred, she received an injury in the stable, which caused abortion; the fetus was of course very small, but so distinctly formed as to admit of no doubt as to its being the fetus—in fact, it was so conclusive that the owner of the mare went to the man who stood the horse and admitted that it was his fault, and that he was willing to be held responsible for the amount of insurance, viz., \$20. At the end of about ten months after the mare was bred, the owner was surprised to find she had milk in her bag, and at the end of the eleventh month she gave birth to a beautiful colt.

Your paper contains so many remarkable stories that you may have heard of such things frequently before; but, as it's something new in this part of the country, I write it, thinking it may be new elsewhere. T. W.

Hurricane, Ky., Oct. 2d.

### BROKEN DOWN.

Poor, lonely steed, neglected and forlorn,  
Condemned on these bleak moors to pass away  
How faded now the glory of the morn  
Which was the lustre of thy gala day!

Rough is thy coat, which once so sleek and soft  
Shone in the sunlight of the peopled course:  
Stiff the gaunt limbs, whose steely sinews oft  
Spurned the hard track with swift and nervous force.

Dim is the eye, whose lightning-flash of old  
Blazed through the dust-clouds like a shooting-star;  
Then the strained nostril, which so tense and bold,  
Snuffed at the outset victory afar.

Perchance a vision of old triumphs still  
Passes at times before thy glazing eye;  
Again thou feel'st the old, ecstatic thrill,  
Which winged thy purpose in the days gone by.

Again around thee spreads the vivid scene:  
The sen of faces in the Grand Stand there—  
The judges in their boxes—and the green  
Thronged with gay coaches, filled with ladies fair.

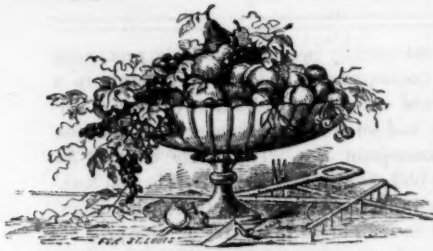
Ranged with thy compeers at the starting place,  
Thou champ'st the bit, and hear'st the eager shout;  
Then, with the signal, dost thou leap apace,  
Wild to be foremost in the plunging rout.

Again thy sinews twang like tempered steel,  
Again thy heart with fierce ambition glows,  
Again hot haste beneath thy ringing heel,  
The glistening race-course like a torrent flows.

The first sharp turn—the swimming quarter-pole,  
Down the brief home-stretch like a thunder-cloud—  
Wild and impatient, frantic to the goal—  
Victory amid the vivas of the crowd!

Alas, poor steed! the world is cold to thee!  
These moors best the meanest equine serf—  
Knee-deep and rich the pasturage should be  
For him that was the Monarch of the Turf!

Death is thy rider: down the course of Time,  
Girt by dim shadows, neck-and-neck with Fate,  
On this last race may memories of thy prime  
Cheer to its goal thy weak and hobbling gait!



## HORTICULTURAL.

### AT THE ST. LOUIS FAIR.

ITEMS AMONG THE FRUITS, FLOWERS, BEES, &c.

In snatching a hasty glance in the early morning hour, we were pleased to note an improvement in almost every department. The approach to the miniature lake, with its beautiful rustic bridges, had a still freshness unlike the rush and bustle that would surround them in a few hours. The frost, which was so fatal to the beauty and value of the magnificent plants last year, was, this season, felt only in those chastened colorings in the forest growth and sharpened mornings, that brace the nerves and evolve an extra amount of vital force. We noticed, too, the wise forethought of the Directors, taking the hint from the experience of last year, in being amply prepared with tarpaulins to cover the tender plants.

The collections of plants were excellent, and much taste was exhibited in their arrangement. There are hints thrown out there in reference to the adornment of home grounds, that cannot fail to make their mark, and many a farm house and village lot will illustrate the teachings of the Fair, in additional beauty with simple means. The value of many plants is strangely overlooked, and the Castor plant and Canna will have a new value to many persons.

In the Floral Hall, there was much to admire. It was thought, by many, that, after the exertions made at the Skating Rink, but a poor display would be made—but we were pleased to see that the florists outdid all their former efforts.

It would almost appear invidious to name any one individual, but some of the specialties call for notice.

The collections of Fruit were of great excellence and take a high position as compared with recent exhibitions at the fair.

The display of Vegetables was very good, potatoes very largely represented.

There was a good collection of Wine, and we are glad that so much success has attended the attempts made in our neighborhood. J. J. Kelly still stands quite high on wine.

The Apiarian department presented unusual interest, but there is not time for a detail. The Honey-Emptying machine of Mr. Church was much visited.

In Horticultural Implements, there was very marked progress, some of them being peculiarly adapted to our new timbered lands.

It is utterly impossible to visit such a place without getting the worth of the time and money expended in information.

If we want fine flowers on our bulbous plants in spring, the bulbs must be planted early in the fall—the sooner the better for the plant.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

### Notes on Criticisms—New Fruits, &c.

The Mammoth Cluster Raspberry controversy has stirred up some very bad "educated blood," as your correspondent, "Concord," would say. One A. S. Fuller, who has seemingly taken upon himself the task of running all the fruits presented to the public, is very evidently cornered up so close, that it is hinted he makes many statements without any regard to their reliability. He pitches into so much, so often—all the time—then, he is a member of the N. Y. Farmers' Club and agricultural editor of the N. Y. Sun—it ain't expected that he can remember what he said a month ago.

The Rural New Yorker has also "put a foot into it," evidently with the desire to defend this Fuller.

Purdy & Johnston and P. C. Reynolds, apparently take the hide clear and clean from Fuller's back.

A. M. Purdy seems to think all new fruits should be tested thoroughly before being sent out: yes, and others think the Mammoth Cluster should have been tested and fully known to be a new variety before taking so much money out of the innocent purchasers; and would now like to have the history and experience of the growers of the so-called "Golden Thornless" raspberry—said to be thornless; but others say it is not.

The idea of editors of respectable journals allowing men who own a new fruit to give laudatory history of the same in their papers, is simply an imposition on the readers of such papers.

The Conqueror and Challenge grapes are highly extolled by Wm. F. Bassett, as "Two fine grapes," in the Southern Horticulturist. Why, bless you, yes! he extols the two perfect grapes! But, look farther on, in the advertising columns, and our man has an offer there to sell us these treasures. How complacent and accommodating! Where have these two perfections been tested? How many States have they been fruited in? When did committees make their reports? and where has this fruit been exhibited?

Another one has found a black raspberry, called the "West Chester;" and it is out for \$3 for six, \$5 for twelve, \$30 for one hundred: send along the stamps—yes, that is just it; the stamps are all that is needed!

Another stranger is coming from Ky., of which our knowledge is very limited. The Sable Queen, Wachusett and Dodge's blackberries, are pushing ahead as perfections—but they may succeed in no more localities than Missouri Mammoth has. The Wilson's Early has proved a swindle almost everywhere. There will soon be another Blackberry out from New Jersey, we think, if Mr. Fish holds out; also, a Raspberry by Turner, of Illinois; and raspberries without number, by Henstine and Parry: we wait with patience to see if any of them are half as good as those now in cultivation.

Nothing teaches patience like the garden.—We may go round and watch from day to day; but it takes its own time, and you cannot urge it faster than it will. All the best results of a garden, like those of life, are slowly, regularly progressive.

### The Best Wash for Trees.

October is the best period for the autumn scraping and washing of fruit trees. The insects which hide in the bark and crevices of the trees, have, by that time retired to their winter quarters and can be easily destroyed.—There is nothing equal as a wash with which to scrub the trees than a preparation of say, one pound of whale oil soap to a large bucket of water, well dissolved. There is nothing more nauseous to insects than this.

It will lay "cold" everything that we have tried it on but the curculio—that, however, cares no more for the mixture, even though accompanied with sulphur, lime-water and tobacco juice, than if it were a gingerly dose of pure spring water. But rose bugs and the steel blue grape bugs, surrender to its power incontinently. Every farmer and gardener ought to have a supply of this soap on hand for use whenever necessary.

Apple and pear trees well scraped and then washed with this preparation, will not only be freed from some of the chief insects preying upon foliage and fruit, but will sensibly feel its invigorating effects.—Germantown Telegraph.

### Burn the Potato Vines.

There is a certain kind of potato bug, called the stem borer, which is very destructive. The injury it does, is immense—still it does not attract much attention. The editor of the Philadelphia Weekly Press has found a method for destroying them. "We bought a piece of land adjoining our farm, last spring, very favorable to the potato, on which we proposed to ourselves to raise a model crop. The first week in August the stems were green and growing—at the end of the second week they were dried up. Slitting the stems near the ground, we found them hollow—bored by the *baridius*—which explained their sudden death. An acre measured, on digging, 175 bushels of saleable; 20 of what are commonly called seed, and 11 of small sizes. But for the borer, there would have been certainly one-third more. The larvae being in the stems, they were collected and burned. Hundreds of thousands are thus destroyed, saving by so much our future crops.

"But there are some neighbors we cannot reach. Their potato haulm will lie in the sun till the insects get out into the ground. We shall have our share of them next year, we suppose. There should be a law to compel insect destruction in such cases."

### METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

BY A. FENDLER, ESQ., ALLENTON, MO.

SEPTEMBER, 1869.

Thermometer in open air, in the shade.

7 A.M. 2 P.M. 9 P.M. Mean of Month.

55° 9 79° 9 61° 2 65° 7

Maximum temp. 91° 0, on 18th and 24th, 2 P.M.

Minimum " 33° 0, on the 28th, 6 A.M.

Range, 58° 0 degrees.

Wet bulb Thermometer.

7 A.M. 2 P.M. 9 P.M. Mean of Month.

54° 8 66° 3 58° 8 60° 0

Barometer—height reduced to freezing point.

7 A.M. 2 P.M. 9 P.M. Mean of Month.

29.637 29.582 29.591 29.603

Maximum, 29.821, on the 28th, 7 A.M.

Minimum, 29.264, on the 13th, 2 P.M.

Range, 0.557 inches.

Rain on the 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d and 26th.

Total amount of rain, 1.60 inches.

	Av. temp.	Rain.
Sep., 1866,	59° 3	8.90 inches.
Sep., 1867,	69° 2	0.52 "
Sep., 1868,	62° 5	7.19 "
Sep., 1869,	65° 7	1.60 "



### The Alton Horticultural Society.

[Abstract of Proceedings].

Society met at the residence of E. A. Riehl on Thursday, Sept. 2, 1869. President Starr in the Chair.—The statement of President Starr, that he found mildew on the branches of the Norton, should have read on the bunches of Norton. The brown leaf hopper, described by Mr. Riley, and said to resemble a beet seed, should be said to resemble a beech seed.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ORCHARDS.

While the bright hopes cherished by the orchardists early in the season have not been realized, yet the diligent cultivator rejoices in the health and vigor of his trees, which by his care have been kept in thrift, and in the future an abundant reward may be expected to follow the intelligent and judicious culture of his orchard.

Picking and preparing such fruits as are in season for market and family use, will now engage the earnest attention of the fruit grower.

This requires care and judgment.

Let the wormy fruit be disposed of daily. Let the hogs and sheep have access to all such fruit, or let it be ground up daily and pressed for vinegar.

Now is a good time to look after the apple tree borer (Saperda), those eggs which were deposited by the insect in June near the root of the tree, may now be found in the shape of a very small borer imbedded in the bark, they having not yet entered the wood.

They may now easily be cut out with a knife. The holes of such as have been in the tree for a year or more will be found stopped up with their chips. Cut into these holes beyond the borer's chips, and you may very easily punch them to death with a small apple sprout, which being flexible, is much better than a wire, as it will readily follow the windings of the borer.

The neat orchardist will not like to see trees surrounded by apple sprouts. Now is a good time to remove them. Let the soil around the tree be removed, when they may be easily cut off with a sharp chisel close to the root from which they grew. Are we intending to plant new orchards? Let us consult our most successful and intelligent neighbors as to the orchard site, preparation of the soil, best season to plant, varieties and number of kinds. Let the new beginner know that the time has passed when fruit trees will grow without care, wild crabs prove profitable, or that injurious insects will leave our fruit for the asking. Many apple growers are so careless. Go into their orchards now and you will find the ground under their bearing trees covered with wormy fruit. Next year let such look for a large crop of the codling moth, and verily they shall not be disappointed, unless providentially to them in view of the future they are blessed with a total failure in the apple crop the coming season.

Brother orchardists, we must fight the codling moth and the many other insects injurious to our fruit. It is a question of profit or loss to us. Let it be not one of life or death to them, but death. To this end we must work diligently, intelligently, perseveringly and unitedly. We must all become intelligent entomologists, if we are not such already. Let us invoke the aid of our Legislature against those noxious insects, and our careless neighbors too, to the end that the insects may die, and every fruit grower compelled to assist in the good work of exterminating them.

J. HUGGINS, Chairman.

F. Starr—The essayist recommends taking off sprouts now. I disagree with him as to the proper time to cut them off. I have lost as high as twenty-five per cent. of my trees by taking off the sprouts in summer. I consider winter the best time.

J. Huggins—If taken off now, they are less liable to sprout again. I think it has the effect in some respects of root-pruning, and has a tendency to induce fruitfulness. I have never lost any trees by cutting off the sprouts in summer.

Hilliard—I think it makes no difference when it is done, the main point is to see that it is done.

Dr. Hull—I think summer the best time, and should judge that the loss of Mr. Starr's trees was caused by the Woolly Aphis. You have doubtless observed in making grafts, that the Woolly Aphis will attack the fresh cut, and I am inclined to think he has attacked the trees. Mr. Starr speaks of immediately after the sprouts were cut. I always use soap on the fresh cut when taking off sprouts.

F. Starr—I am acquainted with the habits of the Woolly Aphis, and I am confident the loss of my trees cannot be attributed to him.

President Starr asks for information in regard to the healthfulness of orchards; he finds the foliage of some varieties badly injured by what he supposes to be the Aphis. The general opinion of members was that the house had been much more numerous and destructive than usual. Dr. Hull attributes the increase of the Aphis, to the fact that the beetle that destroys the Colorado potato bug, also destroys the Lady bird. An interesting discussion ensued as to the

habits of the apple tree Aphis, and the best method of exterminating them. An application of Tobacco Water applied with a garden engine seemed to be effectual. Mr. Merrill had tried Carbolic soap, and many other mixtures he had seen recommended, but failed to destroy them until he used Tobacco Water.

Mr. Riley was of the opinion, that it would be more practicable to apply smoke if we could ascertain what fumes would destroy them. He intended to try the experiment of sulphur smoke.

Dr. Hull—Sulphur smoke will kill the trees. I am successful with soap and Tobacco Water.

In reply to a question, Mr. Riley said there were from six to ten generations in a season. By examining our trees in the winter, we can tell on the number of eggs deposited about how many we shall have. It may be taken as a general rule, that the eggs will hatch two or three days before the buds burst.

Several members spoke of a bird that came in flocks of several hundreds, destroyed the Aphis, and disappeared as suddenly as it came. The bird never was seen before nor since.

Mr. D. L. Hall read the following essay:

#### THE TOMATO—ITS CULTIVATION AND VARIETIES.

The cultivation of the tomato in this vicinity for shipment to Chicago and other northern markets, has rapidly increased during the past few years, not less than one hundred and thirty acres having been devoted to it during the present season, requiring a large amount of capital and labor, extending over a period of more than six months from sowing the seed in February until the final marketing of the crop in the latter part of August.

It is the field culture of the tomato for marketing purposes that we propose briefly to consider in this paper, giving only what appear to be the most essential points in its cultivation, and the main causes of success or failure.

Sow the seed in hot beds about the 10th of February, being governed more by the weather than any exact date, as seed sown in bright, moderately warm weather, during the latter part of the month, will make better plants than if sown three weeks sooner, if in such extreme cold that but little light and air can be given. Sow thinly in drills, and when about two inches high transplant to a new bed three to four inches apart in rich, loose soil, so as to induce a vigorous root growth, very essential at this time. When the plants cover the surface of the bed, transplant again from eight to ten inches apart, this time a cold bed or frame will answer, the sides of the frame being sufficiently high to allow a growth of fifteen to eighteen inches.

By May 1st, full grown plants will have attained this height, be half an inch through at the ground, and should be well furnished with side branches.

During all these operations plenty of light and air must be allowed the plants, and for the last ten days no covering should be allowed unless in danger of frost at night. Transplanted into the field as soon as the ground is warm and danger of frost over, usually from May 5th to 10th.

The ground for tomatoes should be deeply plowed and otherwise well prepared. Set the plants from four to five feet apart each way, and cultivate thoroughly until so large that the plow or cultivator cannot be run without touching them; then stop, for further working will do more harm than good. For the tomato level culture is decidedly the best, any hilling or ridging to the plant having a tendency to produce a new root growth, and, we think, thereby retard the growth and maturity of the fruit, and in case of drouth the vines on hills or ridges will be first to suffer. In a favorable season and with ordinary success, the first tomatoes will ripen about July 1st, the quantity gradually increasing until August 1st, when the vines should be in full bearing and, unless in extremely dry weather, continue to yield largely during the entire month.

A fair yield per acre is one hundred bushels of marketable tomatoes—that is, ripened in time to be profitable for market; much larger results than this have been obtained, but this is a full average.

The tomato for distant market should be picked as soon as well colored, carefully packed in one-third bushel boxes, filled so as to prevent the fruit moving in the least after the cover is nailed on; thus packed they will remain in good condition for 48 to 60 hours.

In common with most other horticultural products, the tomato has numerous insect enemies, the most destructive is the Cut-worm (*Agrotis telifera*), which severs the young plants when first set out, at or near the surface of the ground. Various remedies have been suggested, such as putting salt, lime, and stiff paper around the plants; but the only effectual one, in our experience, is daily hand picking and crushing so long as cool or wet weather continues.

The Stalk Borer (*Gortyna nitela*), is another pest, boring into the stalk, and sometimes eating into the green tomato. Last in appearance is the potato or tomato worm (*Sphinx maculata*), a large green

caterpillar, eating the foliage, and if not checked, completely stripping the vine of leaves. For both these, hand picking is the best remedy.

In selecting a variety of tomatoes for market purposes, we require earliness, good size and color, productiveness, and firmness of flesh and skin, sufficient to endure transportation without injury. Of the varieties cultivated in this vicinity—

The Tilden is the best for shipping purposes; early, good size and color, handsome and productive; its only fault is lack of quality and proneness to rot.

Large Smooth Red: Five to ten days later than Tilden, handsome, good quality and productive; one of the best.

Extra Early Red: Very early, medium size, and productive for a short time, but will not stand dry weather.

Loster's Perfected: Large, quality best, enormously productive, but too late, and does not stand transportation.

Maupay: Large, productive, good quality; worthy of further trial.

Keye's Early, Alger, Orangesfield, Eureka and Cider Hill, all nearly worthless for market. Of the newer varieties: Brimson, Bluster and Gen. Grant are productive and of good quality, but deficient in size and too soft.

New York Market: Large size, firm, of good quality, and we think will prove valuable.

And now finally, the question is, will it pay to grow tomatoes? We answer, that those whose experience and knowledge of the business is united to a favorable location that will enable them to be always among the first in market, may, in most seasons, make tomatoes pay; but that even then there are but few crops that pay so small an interest on the time and capital invested. That the business has been overdone for the past year or two, is certainly true; but the principal reason of failure to pay, lies in the want of an outlet for the bulk of our crop, that which matures too late for profitable shipping purposes. This can be supplied by a good canning establishment; and as the want is not confined to the tomato, but extends to all of our small fruits and most vegetables, we are confident that success from the start will attend the first enterprise of this kind, which may be established in Alton or vicinity.

### Hyacinths, Narcissus and Crocus, in the Open Border.

The following are the latest directions for open-air culture on a small scale, of the above flowers, written by Mr. Glenny, who is an author, and authority on all matters pertaining to florists' flowers, of a quarter-century's standing. This is just imported—is fresh—and for the above-named bulbs, is equally applicable to our climate as to Britain, and may therefore be relied on as thoroughly sound advice:

Hyacinths are the most beautiful of spring flowers, and they will bloom in perfection in the open ground. In beds they make a grand display, the colors being bright and the spikes of flowers elegant and effective. In small gardens they should be planted in patches of three—say red, blue and white. Let the ground be enriched by forking in some rotten dung; plant them with a trowel, so that the crown of the bulb shall be three inches below the surface; cover them with the soil you take out to make room for them, and you need take no further heed of them till they are up. They may be planted this month or next, or some in each. When up, they soon show their spikes of bloom buds. It must be a very bitter frost to hurt them, but a little litter or an inverted flowerpot will prevent wet from accumulating and freezing at the bottom of the leaves, for it often breaks them when thawing. The various kinds of narcissus, all of which are hardy, make fine border flowers, and being taller than hyacinths, should be planted behind them. The hyacinth may be planted within six inches of the front, the narcissus at least a foot and a-half. Crocuses are generally planted close to the edge. In large gardens with broad beds or borders we can afford to give more room, and to plant larger patches or groups. Crocuses in front, in patches of three or five, say two feet apart. White, yellow and blue hyacinths, and early tulips alternately, in patches of three every two feet, to show half way between the crocuses and the narcissus in patches of three, still further back and behind the crocuses. A border a yard wide will do for this sort of planting.

## THE EUMELAN GRAPE.

We present a cut of this new grape. It has just taken the First Premium at the joint Exhibition of the American Pomological and Penn-

sylvania Horticultural Societies, and also at the N. Y. State Fair at Elmira.

In the West it is on trial in several places—

still there is but little can be said about its success here. There is so much of "promise" in what it has done, that we think it well worthy of a trial.

Dr. Grant's description of the Eumelan is as follows:

"I have made a most thorough investigation of its character and history, and find that during its whole existence of more than thirty years, the accounts of it have been unexceptionably favorable. It is very vigorous, hardy and productive in habit, ripening always decidedly earlier than Hartford Prolific, while in the character and quality of its fruit, it not only resembles but fully equals the excellent foreign kinds, both for eating and for wine.—Like the Delaware, which, despite the most fierce opposition, is even now in its early stage so deservedly popular, the Eumelan has had a long, silent history, and has triumphed over all of the difficulties incident to negligent treatment during more than thirty years, in different localities, before bringing its claims to the knowledge of the public.—Its excellence in quality, for a long time, kept it back, under the idea that it was the Black Pinot, one of the few that rank as best in Europe, and that therefore, being foreign, it could not be hardy. Its long trial in different localities happily has now most effectually dispelled this error.

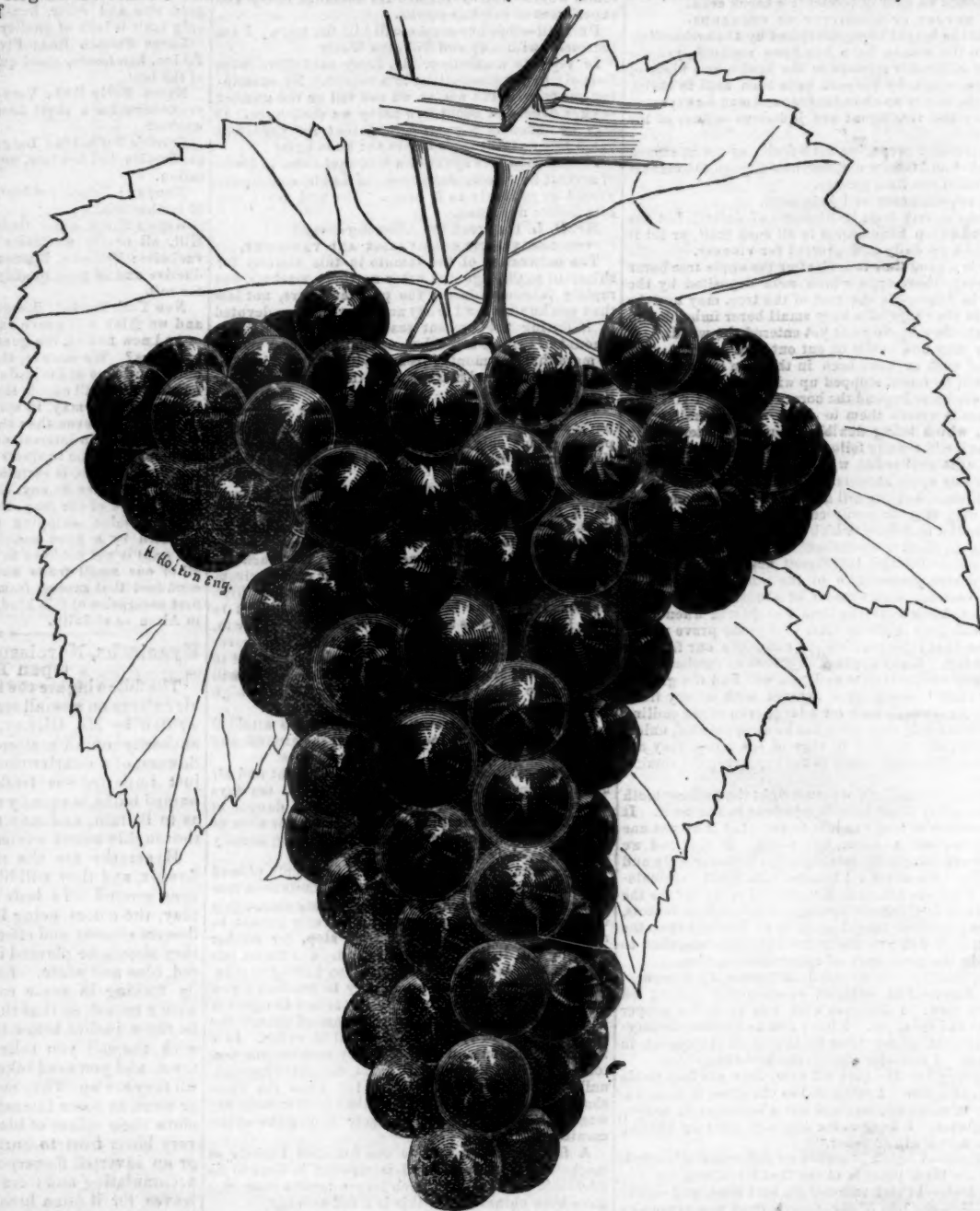
"In detail, the general qualifications of the Eumelan for the highest post of value, are: Bunches of large size, elegant form, and proper degree of compactness; berries, also, of large size, with fine bloom and clear surface, adhering firmly to the bunches long after ripening, and not falling from the bunches after picking and packing. Its special qualifications as fruit for the table, are: 1. Meaty, uniform texture of tender, melting flesh, that all goes to wine-like juice under slight pressure of the tongue, after the skin is broken by tearing the berries from the stem.—

2. Ripening evenly and perfectly all through, and as soon at the centre as at the circumference. 3. Flavor pure and refined, very sugary, rich and vinous, with a large degree of that

refreshing quality which belongs distinctly to the best foreign wine grapes, and constitutes the crowning excellence of grapes for all uses. For late keeping, bearing exposure well, and long

transportation to market, it is all that can be desired.

For making Red Wine, it has no near competitor among American grapes."



## How to Preserve Grape Cuttings.

November is the proper month to prune grape vines at the North. In the Southern States, it may be done at any time from November to February, or before the sap begins to flow.—Pruning could also be delayed at the North, if our winters were not too cold to allow of such work being done in vineyards, or even in gardens, in a manner as well as it can be done in the fall.

When the grape wood is to be saved for propagating, it is essential that the pruning be done

in the fall, so that the canes can be cut and buried in sand in the cellar, or in garden or field soil out of doors.

Many writers on grape growing have said that cuttings should be packed in boxes, mixed with moist sand, and placed in cellars; but cuttings may just as well be preserved by covering them with common garden or field soil, as with sand.

You may take any variety of grape, and cut the canes into single eyes, or long cuttings, with two to four eyes, then lay them anywhere upon the ground, and cover them with any soil so

deep that they will be well preserved in the spring. Or you may dig a hole in the ground, put the cuttings in it, and cover them six or eight inches deep, and they will be in good condition to set the next spring.

We bury cart loads every fall, and make heaps three or four feet high, about six feet wide, and as long as necessary. We first lay a tier of cuttings about six inches deep, upon the surface of the ground, (we should dig down a foot or more if our garden were not on a flat, where water stands sometimes in winter,) and cover with soil:



then another tier, then cover, and so on till we get the heap about four feet high; then we cover it about eight inches deep with earth, and throw a little hay, straw, or anything over the heap, to prevent the rain from washing the cuttings bare.

If we tie the cuttings in bundles, we lay the bundles down on their sides and close together, as it does not appear to be necessary that the earth should come in contact with each cutting, if they are so covered that they are kept damp. We think, however, that it is better to lay the cuttings loose in the tiers, and work the dirt among them, notwithstanding that we have had bundles keep perfectly well; yet it is reasonable to suppose that it is safer to have the cuttings in close contact with the earth than otherwise.—But if one bury his cuttings in bundles, it would also be safer to pack them on their ends, so that the moisture from rains and snows will be more equally diffused among them.

If cuttings are buried in the ground, and water stands among them for several weeks, they would be injured badly, and some varieties would probably be destroyed entirely.—*Rural American.*

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## EDITOR'S TABLE.

### The Ninth Annual Fair of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Assoc'n.

This Fair was held on the grounds of the Association, from the 4th to the 9th of October inclusive.—This is not a State Fair nor a County Fair, as it is often styled—but a Fair that claims to throw open its doors to all the world for competition. The Premium list is a liberal one; and, besides, Pork Packers, Cotton Merchants, Hotel proprietors and private individuals—offer large special premiums, so that this year, in the aggregate, \$35,000 were offered. That this should draw out competition, is not at all remarkable, when we remember that men will work hard for money, as well as for renown. Our associate has already given a brief account of Floral Hall, and of the Garden. The Fine Art Hall was not over well filled, but contained some pieces of superior merit, that well deserved the blue ribbons which we saw attached. It was constantly thronged with visitors.

Mechanics' Hall is so large now that it takes a great deal of stuff to fill it up; it did not look empty anywhere, and yet we have seen this department better filled. All that was shown, however, was meritorious, especially the furniture and upholstery goods in which classes there seems to be great competition not only at the Fair, but in St. Louis.

Power Hall was well filled, but we are hardly a judge of the merits of particular machinery, though we always feel inclined to take off our hat to the man that can construct a locomotive, or any other well made machine propelled by steam.

The best filled, and as evincing the greatest progress, was the Farm Implement Department. Almost every reaper has a new improvement, and some were finished up in such magnificent style that—not being exactly parlor ornaments nor machines one would put into the field—one would hardly know for what they were intended, except to show superior workmanship, which they certainly did. We were glad to notice among these, the Champion, and also the Kirby—both very good machines, as we recorded in the report of the Field Trial at Sedalia. Our friend, Jno. P. Manny, was also down, showing up his labor for the last three years, in the shape of a new rake attached to his reaper. He has promised to bring his machine to the Field Trial in Missouri, and then we shall see it operate. It is certainly a most ingenious device, which make rake and reel run on the same shaft and yet on a different pinion, stopping the rake, or nearly so, at the time the bundle is delivered. But one can hardly go amiss now in purchasing a good machine among the many excellent reapers and mowers made in the East and in the West. Not only in these, but in all other farm implements, marked improvements were visible, as we had ocular demonstration in the trials of plows, cultivators, rollers and harrows, noted elsewhere.

Missouri has been put back in some of her enterprises by the war, and is only now, slowly but surely, we are happy to add, recovering therefrom. This is particularly true of fine blooded stock of cattle. Very fine cattle are now being bred by a number of gentlemen in Missouri, but they have still to divide the honors at the fair with Illinois—the Prairie State taking the lion's share of the prizes. We miss Capt. James N. Brown and James Hill, who have gone the way of all the earth, from among the leaders—and we really have not learned where their mantles have fallen. We have room for no more this week, but expect to continue the subject in our next.

### ST. LOUIS GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE RURAL WORLD AND VALLEY FARMER,  
October 11th, 1869.

St. Louis has been turned upside-down nearly, and her people have tried to enjoy themselves during the week past, in attending the Fair. The weather was exceeding fine; the exhibition well worth a visit; and trade and commerce (except that of hotel keepers, street and furniture car proprietors, and pickpockets,) have languished.

There is no improvement in the price of wheat, because much that comes forward is badly bleached.

Corn is now known to be only a partial crop, even in the best counties of Illinois, such as Sangamon for instance. A great deal of it will never be good for anything but feed, and if kept until after Christmas will not amount too much even for that.

There is no improvement in the quality of grass beavers; those droves that we had a chance to notice, were only in such condition as common stock cattle ought to be at this season of the year. If they could have a couple of months regular and full feed of the soft corn, which will dry up any how, they would make decent beavers. Why our farmers will never learn that it is a great (proportionally) and certain loss to sell cattle half grown and half fattened, is a thing that we cannot explain.

We quote:

TOBACCO—Inferior and common lugs, \$7 50@8 50; factory dried lugs and leaf, \$8 50@11 50; medium good dark leaf, \$10 50@12 50; black wrappers, \$12@17 00.

HEMP—Undressed, \$115@175 for common to choice; dressed, \$220@240.

FLOUR—Spring XX, \$4 90@5 00; winter XX, \$5 50@5 75; XXX, 6 25@6 50 for low choice; \$7 25@7 50 for choice.

RYE FLOUR—\$6@6 25, and quiet.

CORN MEAL—\$4 80@4 90 for city kiln dried.

WHEAT—No. 2, \$1 03@1 05; No. 1, \$1 12@1 15; choice, \$1 20@1 25.

CORN—Choice yellow, 90c; white choice, 90@95c.

OATS—According to color and quality, 48@52c.

RYE—\$2@3c, without much change.

BARLEY—Strictly choice at full price. Winter Ohio, \$1 80@1 85. Spring has a wide range from 90c@1 15. Fancy Illinois brings from \$1 35@1 50.

HAY—Tight pressed clover and red top, \$16; very bright Timothy, \$19@20.

SEEDS—Flax, \$3 and in demand; Timothy, \$3 80@3 85.

BRANS—Castor, more plentiful and lower, \$2 50; very choice, \$2 30.

POTATOES—Millers and Neshannocks, \$1 20@1 30 per bbl.; Peachblows, 35@40c per bush.

ONIONS—Prime, \$2 50; choice, \$2 75.

HIDES—Dull and weak, at 22@23c for dry flint; 17@17c for dry salt, and 16@16c for green do.

WOOL—Dull. Unwashed fine and medium, 23, 23, 30@31c; coarse, 31@33c; combing, 39@40c. Fleeces washed, fine, 87@89; medium and coarse, 46@43c. Tub washed, low to good, 48@50; do and picked, 50@53c.

FURS AND PELTRIES—Raccoon No. 1 50 to 55c; No. 2 25 to 30c; No. 3 12 to 15c. Mink No. 1 \$1 75 to 2 50; No. 2 87c to \$1 25; No. 3 40 to 42c. Otter No. 1 \$5 to \$6; No. 2 \$2 50 to \$3; No. 3 \$1 25 to \$1 50. Fox 40 to 50c; wild cat 30 to 40c; house cat 10c; skunk 10 to 50c; muskrat 12 to 16c; wolf \$1 to \$2 50; bear \$1 to \$5; beaver per lb \$1 to \$1 75; deer winter 20 to 25c; deer summer 30 to 32c; opossum 5 to 7c.

DRIED FRUIT—For apples a good demand, with sales at 6@6c for common to fair; 6c@7c for prime; and 7c@8c for choice. Peaches dull. Inferior to good mixed sold at 6@8c, quarters at 7c, halves at 9@10c.

GREEN FRUIT—Apples, choice scarce and wanted. Common \$1 50@2 25 per bbl; fair to good and choice shipping, \$2 50@3 50. Peaches, 55@58c to \$1 25@1 50 per half bush box; do Michigan per basket \$1 50. Pears, \$2 50@3 per bbl. Grapes, 8@12c per lb.

BUTTER—Choice yellow dairy in tub was in better supply, yet insufficient for the demand. Inferior and common, 18@22c; prime yellow, 23@31c; strictly do to choice dairy, 32, 33, 34@35c.

EGGS—20@25c shipper's count.

### St. Louis Live Stock Market.

As hinted above, there is no very noticeable feature in the live stock market, except it is the absence of choice shipping beeves.

The hog market is steady, and rates well sustained, and it will not be long until the packing season will fairly open.

Extra prime shipping beeves nominally, \$6 50@7 25; first-class butchers' stock, \$5 50@6 50; second class \$4 50@5; scalawags at what can be got per head.

Hogs, extra choice and fat, \$9 50@10; small but fat, \$8 50@9.

Sheep, extra large fat wethers, \$4@5; medium good mutton, \$2 50; do do lambs, \$2@2 50.

DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN.—The past season has been fatal to the early pioneers of Ray Co., and we are again called upon to record the demise of another old citizen, Jedediah Smith, who died at his residence, in the western portion of this county, on Sept. 20th, 1869, at the advanced age of seventy-seven years. Mr. Smith was born in North Carolina, but moved to this county in 1838, and since that time has been identified with the interests of this section. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was present in several engagements. The announcement of his death will be read with sorrow by his many friends.—*Richmond (Mo.) Conservative.*



### THE THREE LITTLE CHAIRS.

They sat alone by the bright wood fire,  
The gray-haired dame and the aged sire,  
Dreaming of days gone by;  
The tear-drops fell on each wrinkled cheek,  
They both had thoughts that they could not speak,  
As each heart uttered a sigh.

For their sad and tearful eyes desied  
Three little chairs placed side by side,  
Against the sitting-room wall;  
Old-fashioned enough as there they stood,  
Their seats of flag and their frames of wood,  
With their backs so straight and tall.

Then the sire shook his silvery head,  
And with trembling voice he gently said:  
"Mother, those empty chairs!  
They bring us such sad, sad thoughts to-night,  
We'll put them forever out of sight,  
In the small dark room, up stairs."

But she answered, "Father, no, not yet,  
For I look at them and I forget  
That the children went away.  
The boys come back, and our Mary, too,  
With her apron of of checkered blue,  
And sits here every day.

Johnny still whittles a ship's tall mast,  
And Willie his leaden bullets cast,  
While Mary her patch-work sews;  
At evening time three childish prayers  
Go up to God from those little chairs,  
So softly that no one knows.

Johnny comes back from the billow deep,  
Willie wakes from the battle-field sleep,  
To say a good-night to me;  
Mary's a wife and mother no more,  
But a tired child whose play-time is o'er,  
And comes to rest on my knee.

So let them stand there, though empty now,  
And every time when alone we bow  
At the Father's throne to pray,  
We'll ask to meet the children above,  
In our Saviour's home of rest and love,  
Where no child goeth away."

—Mrs. H. T. Perry in Evangelist.

### YOUNG MEN PAPERS—NO. 6.

A word to young men on the cultivation of moral principles is never out of place. All young men need line upon line and precept upon precept. They do not sufficiently value the golden excellencies of moral principles. Young farmers, mechanics, professional men—all feel that a thorough acquaintance with their calling is the one thing needful to their success. They think if they know enough, know all about their business and its relation to the world, little else is needed to carry them bravely onward. How mistaken! This is well; this is necessary. They must have knowledge—must know all about what they propose to do. They cannot be too well informed on all important subjects; cannot be too eager in the pursuit of all useful knowledge. But they must, above all this, have a real love for moral principle; must love honesty, generosity, purity, rectitude; must feel that nothing can be weighed in the balance against a good character; nothing can pay for a moral blemish; nothing can compensate for a feeble perception of right. They must have a hearty dread of everything wrong; must eschew

evil as a poison—a serpent with deadly stings. They must feel that integrity is as essential in a man of business, as in a minister of the gospel. They ought to know that moral excellence is the best stock in trade that a young man can invest. It pays the best per cent., brings the largest dividends, is the best insurance against failure; outlives misfortune, and makes a man friends—staunch and firm when banks fail, stocks run down, and common credit is far below par. To be mean, tricky, deceitful, unprincipled, untrustworthy—is to lack the best essential of success in business, in social position, in personal worth, in all respects! The man who will violate any moral principle, is scarcely to be trusted in anything, without considerable discount. The young man who wavers, truckles, prevaricates, deceives, gives way to temptation, falters in duty—will always be regarded with jealousy. The way is, to live square up to the mark of right, to stand on moral principle as the only platform. In my youth I knew a few staunch young men whom nothing could seduce; who loved virtue for its own sake. In all respects they were patterns of moral excellence. They have all met with the best success in life. Wherever they have settled they have become centres of large circles of influence and action. The world has given them honor, position, and some of them fame. I knew many who were unprincipled, base, corrupt. Some a little—some very much so. They have all failed. Not one has risen to stay up. They have floundered and flattered, and some for a little while have seemed to be successful; but, in the end, they have all come down. Some have got rich, but the world despises them. Some have got a name, but it is tarnished with the blood of innocence. An odor follows them. So it is the world over. Inviolable moral principle is the best stock in trade. Let every man cultivate every moral power. Let him struggle to resist every temptation, and grow to be brave and strong in the possession and practice of every virtue.

THE LETTER R.—We have a friend who finds it difficult to pronounce the letter R. Meeting him on one occasion, he said—

"Wobbert, have you heard of the great wiot on the Bywistol woad?"

"A what?"

"Why, a wiot, a wiot?"

"What the deuce is a wiot?"

"Don't you know what a wiot is? A wiot is a wumpus."

"Well, now, what is a wumpus? You have got me again."

"Why you know what I mean. A wiot—a wumpus, a wow."

"O ho! a riot! Yes, yes, I have heard something of that."

Be careful of your health, girls. Don't mind being "old foggy" because you wrap yourselves up well, and never venture out in thin shoes. Better be an old foggy than a young corpse.

An octogenarian says: "I was born at the wrong time. When I was a young man, young men were of no account. Now I am old, I find old men are of no account."

When Sir William Hamilton announced to the Royal Irish Academy his discovery of the central sun—the star around which our orb of day and the planetary attendants revolve, a waggish member exclaimed: "What! our sun's sun? Why, that must be a grand-sun."

### THE MINER'S DANGERS.

The coal miner passes in his cage rapidly from the light of day to the darkness of the coal-bed, several hundred yards beneath the surface.—Here he toils—too often in a constrained position—for hours, hewing coal by the dim light of a lamp, filtered through the small meshes of a wire gauze. His dangers are many, and from the moment the miner trusts himself on the descending cage, they begin. A man a day is killed in the shafts of our collieries. The roof above him in his working place is often treacherous, and nearly six men are killed to every million tons of coal raised in this country, by the fall of the stratum beneath which he labors. Then, the coal itself is, sometimes continuously, often suddenly, pouring out its carburetted hydrogen gas, which, mixing with air, becomes the fire-damp; and with the sad casualties arising from its explosion, we are unfortunately but too familiar. In one moment scores of men are destroyed by the force of the explosion, and those who escape the fire damp, perish in the deadly cloud of "after-damp," "stythe," or "choke damp," as the carbonic acid formed by the explosion, is variously named. Nor are these all the dangers of the miner. He suddenly breaks into old workings, of which no records have been kept, and he perishes by drowning in the rush of liberated waters, surging under the pressure of the column of fluid, which has been gathering, it may be, for ages. The coal may be set on fire by an explosion of gunpowder or from some accidental cause, and, fanned by the force of the ventilating current, becomes rapidly so extensive as to cut off all means of escape. Then we have the sad record of the Hartley Colliery, in which, by the breaking of the machinery, the shaft was closed, and 204 men and boys found a living tomb. A similar accident occurred but a few weeks since near Rotherham, where the whole body of colliers at work were in a moment sealed in their colliery for some days; but, happily, here it was possible to remove the obstruction from the shaft and release them.

The toiler in the metal mines, who is not liable to suffer from explosions of fire-damp, is surrounded by numerous dangers, analogous to those already described. Beyond these, from the severity of the labors of the metalliferous miner in air deficient of oxygen, and with an excess of carbonic acid, and from injurious influence of climbing on perpendicular ladders from it may be, more than three hundred fathoms beneath the surface, bronchial diseases are contracted early in life, and the average period of his existence is but little above half that enjoyed by other men.

The very conditions of a miner's life render him a peculiar man. He is ever religious. There is no profane speaking in "underground life," and whistling is regarded as an act of levity, and always checked. Yet the miner's religion is almost always that of the fatalist. "I shall not die until it please the Lord," is its expression. A man who was brought out of the Lundhill Colliery for dead, but who recovered, was soon at work in a neighboring colliery known to be of a "fiery" character. He was asked by a visitor if he was not under fear, having already suffered so severely. "No," was his unhesitating reply; "the Lord that saved me then will save me again."—*London Athenaeum.*

LAUGHTER.—Nothing acts so directly on the organs within, both chest and abdomen. Ten hearty laughs, real shouts, will do more to advance the general health and vitality, than an hour spent in the best attitudes and motions, if done in a sober, solemn spirit. Of course, I know you can't laugh at your will, so you must play with your children, introduce a hundred games which involve competition and fun.—Open the folding doors, move back the centre table, and go at it. Play with the dog, run for the pins, play any of the games which you can recall from your early experience.



## Country Girls.

Meta Victoria Fuller, in a sisterly way, thus talks to country girls:

"The farmer's daughters are soon to be the life as well as the pride of this country: a glorious race of women which no other land can show. I seek not to flatter them; for before they can become this, they will have to make an earnest effort of one or two kinds. There are some who deprecate their condition, and some who have a false pride in it, because they demand more consideration than they merit. A want of intelligence upon all the subjects of the day and of a refined education is no more excusable in a country than in a town-bred girl, in these days of many books and newspapers.

"Many girls are discouraged because they can not be sent away from home to boarding schools; but men of superior minds and knowledge of the world, would rather have for wives women well and properly educated at home. And this education can be had whenever the desire is not wanting. A taste for reading does wonders; and an earnest thirst after knowledge is almost certain to attain a sweet draught from the 'Pierian spring.' There is a farmer's daughter in this very room in which I am writing—a beautiful, refined and intelligent woman—in whose girlhood books were not so plenty as now, and who obtained her fine education under difficulties, which would have discouraged any but one who had a true love for study."

**SLEEPING IN BRAN.**—According to the *London Lancet*, a plan has been generally adopted in France of placing babies in bran. An ordinary cradle is filled with common bran, a hair pillow is put in, and then the bran is moved aside with the hand, until a hollow is formed the size of the child's body. The infant, divested of everything below the waist, and having a little bodice or cope above that, is then placed in the bran, and its body completely covered with it, exactly as may be seen at the sea-side at the present time, where children play at burying one another in the sand. A light coverlet or counterpane is finally placed above all, and the baby is in bed for the night. The two great advantages connected with bran are said to be its particular cleanliness, and the very pleasant and equable temperature which it maintains about the infant's body. There seems to be no good reason, says an English paper, why the privilege of sleeping in bran, if it possesses these advantages, should be confined to the small and noisier portion of humanity. Bran might be used instead of bedding in casual wards, night refuges, common lodging-houses, and indeed, would be far preferable to the dirty uncomfortable beds to be found in full perfection at sea-side lodgings.—Perhaps the day is not far distant when the sojourner at the sea-side will take with his carpet bag, a folding box and a bag of bran, and bid defiance to dirt, fleas and infection.

\$500 REWARD is offered by the proprietor of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, for a case of Catarrh which he cannot cure. The fifty cent package prepares one full pint of the medicine ready for use. Sold by druggists, or send sixty cents to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, New York, and you will receive it by return mail.

If we could have public drinking fountains in all our large cities, it would save many a man from a drunkard's grave. In the city of London there are a good many of these fountains. In the front of Rev. Newman Hall's church is one, and as the thirsty traveler stops to drink he can read these words written in letters of iron: "Whosoever drinketh of these waters shall thirst again; but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst."

## DON'T FIRE TOO HIGH.

The following is suggestive not only to temperance lecturers, but to all who undertake any practical reformation among the masses. Don't fire too high. Speak to men in language they can understand. A few days since, a gentleman made one of a little company of spectators at a velocipede exhibition. He turned to a plain-looking young man, and said, "It must be very fatiguing; don't you think so?" "I don't know what you mean," was his answer. He stumbled at the word *fatiguing*. He saw it, and said, "It must make them very tired." "Oh yes," he quickly responded. Ministers should remember not to fire over people's heads. Truth must be put in simple language, and illustrated by metaphors familiar to all. Call the sun a *sun*—not a *luminary*. Don't call the sky "an azure vault;" call it the sky. Don't talk of the "economy of grace," for your plainer hearers will at once revert to the kitchen. But enough. We append "A Rural Lesson in Rhetoric," which shows the importance of not firing too high.

## A RURAL LESSON IN RHETORIC.

Brown was invited to visit a town in the extreme rural districts for the purpose of lecturing the people on temperance. He arrived at his destination late in the evening, and was invited to the cottage of a farmer to partake of supper, previous to the display of his eloquence.

The farmer had two sons, twenty to twenty-five years of age, and to them a temperance lecturer appeared something more than an ordinary man. Brown had great difficulty in drawing them into conversation, but at length the ice was broken, and the following colloquy was the result:

"I suppose you've both affixed your names to the pledge long ago?" queried our friend.

"Which?"

"I presume you are both temperance men, and have pledged yourselves to abstain from the use of everything that intoxicates?"

"The which, stranger?"

"You do not get the idea clearly. I was expressing the hope that you do not indulge in intoxicating beverages."

"Eh?"

"That you do not indulge in the inebriating cup."

"Sir?"

"Do either of you drink liquor? That's what I'm trying to get at."

"Waal, stranger!" exclaimed the eldest, "I didn't know but ye was a-talkin' French jabber. Why didn't ye ax the thing right out? Sam and me don't drink no liquor to speak on, 'cept hayin and harvist, and then we drink right smart. So does fayerther and everybody 'round here. Ef ye talk French stuff in yer lecture, stranger, 'twont du much good, I tell ye, for nobody won't know a word what yer means in this yer neck o' timber, sartin and sure."

Brown declares this to be the best lesson in rhetoric he ever received, and he made an unusual effort to adapt his words to the comprehension of his hearers in that "neck o' timber." Other speakers may profit by the hint.

**A BEAUTIFUL INCIDENT.**—A naval officer being at sea in a dreadful storm, his wife, who was sitting in the cabin near him, and filled with alarm for the safety of the vessel, was so surprised with his composure and serenity that she cried out—

"My dear, are you not afraid? How is it possible you can be so calm in such a dreadful storm?"

He rose from his chair, lashed to the deck, supporting himself by a pillar of the bed place, drew his sword, and pointing it to the breast of his wife, exclaimed, "Are you afraid of that sword?"

She instantly answered, "No."

"Why?" said the officer.

"Because," rejoined the lady, "I know that

it is in the hands of my husband, and he loves me too well to hurt me."

"Then," said he, "remember, I know in whom I believe, and that he holds the winds in his fists and the water in the hollow of his hands."

**RESPECT THE BODY.**—A writer in the *Hearth and Home* says:

Respect the body. Give it what it requires, and no more. Don't pierce its ears, strain its eyes, or pinch its feet; don't roast it by a hot fire all day, and smother it under heavy bed covering all night; don't put it in a cold draft on slight occasions, and don't nurse or pet it to death; don't dose it with doctors' stuffs, and, above all, don't turn it into a wine cask or a chimney. Let it be "warranted not to smoke" from the time your manhood takes possession. Respect the body; don't over-work, over-rest, or over-love it, and never debase it, but be able to lay it down when you are done with it a well worn but not a mis-used thing. Meantime, treat it at least as well as you would your pet horse or hound, and, my word for it, though it will not jump to China at a bound, you'll find it a most excellent thing to have—especially in the country.

## A LITERARY CURIOSITY.

The following is one of the most remarkable compositions. The initial capitals spell, "My boast is in the glorious cross of Christ." The words in SMALL CAPITALS, when read on the left hand side from top to bottom, and on the right hand side from bottom to top, form the Lord's Prayer complete.

Make known the Gospel truth, our father king,  
Yield up thy grace dear FATHER from above,  
Bless us with hearts WHICH feelingly can sing,  
"Our life thou ART for EVER, God of Love!"  
Assuage our grief in love for Christ, we pray,  
Since the bright prince of HEAVEN and glory died,  
Took all our sins and HALLOWED THE display,  
Infant being, first a man, and then was crucified.  
Stupendous God! THY grace and POWER make known,  
In JESUS' NAME let all THE world rejoice.  
Now labor in THY heavenly KINGDOM own,  
That blessed KINGDOM for thy saints THE choice.  
How vile to COME—to thee is all our cry;  
Enemies to THYSELF, and all that's THINE;  
Graceless our WILL, we live FOR vanity;  
Loathing the very BRING EVIL in design.  
O God, thy will be DONE FROM earth to heaven!  
Reclining on the Gospel, let us live—  
In EARTH from sin DELIVERED and forgiven.  
Oh! AS THYSELF BUT teach us to forgive;  
Unless it's power TEMPTATION doth destroy,  
Sure is our fall into the depths of woe.  
Carnal IN mind, we've NOT a glimpse of joy  
Raised against HEAVEN; in us hope we can flow.  
O GIVE us grace AND LEAD us on thy way;  
Shine on us with thy love and give us peace;  
Self and this sin that rise AGAINST us, slay.  
Oh! grant each DAY our TRESPASSES may cease;  
Forgive OUR evil deeds THAT oft we do;  
Convince us DAILY of THEM to our shame;  
Help us with heavenly BREAD, FORGIVE us too  
Recurrent lusts, AND we'll adore thy name.  
In thy FORGIVENESS, we AS saints can die,  
Since for us AND OUR TRESPASSES so high,  
Thy Son, OUR Saviour, bled on Calvary.

**WHAT CAUSES HAIR TO TURN GRAY.**—An English writer has recently asserted that an undue proportion of lime in the system is the cause of premature gray hair, and advises to avoid hard water, either for drinking pure or when converted into tea, coffee or soup, because hard water is always strongly impregnated with lime. Hard water may be softened by boiling it; let it become cold, and then use it as a beverage. It is also stated that a liquid that will color the human hair black, and not stain the skin, may be made by taking one part of bay rum, three parts of olive oil, and one part of good brandy, by measure. The hair must be washed with the mixture every morning, and in a short time the use of it will make the hair a beautiful black, without injuring it in the least. The articles must be of the best quality, mixed in a bottle, and always shaken well before being applied.

"Won't that boa constrictor bite me?" said a little urchin to a showman. "Oh! no, boy he never bites, he swallows his wittles whole."

## DOMESTIC DEPARTMENT.

**A WOMAN'S IDEA OF WHAT A KITCHEN SHOULD BE.**—To begin with, I would have a kitchen well lighted—some, yes a great deal of the broad, rich, expansive sunshine coming right in boldly, as if it had a perfect right to be there. That would, of course, necessitate large windows. And then I would give as much attention to the ventilation of a kitchen as I would to that of a sleeping-room. I would have a large circular device suspended over the cooking-stove, with a hole in the centre and a tube leading to the top of the house, to carry off the savory smells which the process of cooking generates, and prevent them from permeating the entire house. For these smells, however savory and agreeable, are apt to take away something from the keenness of our appetite; or, at least, to cause us to anticipate something better than the reality. Then I would have a large sink, with a permanent soapstone or marble wash-bowl, for washing the dishes; and another for draining. I would also have an adjustable pipe, leading from the hot water tank to either of these basins. Besides this, I would have sundry closets and cupboards arranged upon the wall so as to be tasteful and decorative, as well as very convenient.

Then I would have a space devoted to tiny drawers, such as one sees in a drug store, and labeled in this manner: soda, allspice, cream of tartar, etc.; so that at a glance I could discover just what I wanted, without rummaging to find these things in some out-of-the-way corner, placed there by some careless, untidy Bridget. This would save one a world of care now devoted to instructing every new servant as to all the places of things. Cooking is becoming so complicated now-a-days, that one needs all the arrangements, and as many utensils, as a chemical laboratory; and the good architect should give the good mater-familias "a place for everything."—*American Builder.*

**GOOD PLAIN COOKING.**—There should be this in every family, and when it is not, poor indeed must be the table comforts from which so much enjoyment is to be expected. Where there is some intelligence and common sense in a family, we will almost invariably find two very important objects—tidiness and good plain cooking. And wherever these exist we will likewise find economy and substantial comfort. In my own experience in housekeeping and my knowledge of others, I have been frequently pained at the utter ignorance shown in the way of general cooking. One would suppose it would be next to impossible that nothing is learned in this art. No matter how good the material for a dinner may be, it is somehow contrived to be ruined. And when you come to bread, pies, tea and coffee, etc., it is still worse. A good article is never seen upon the table of these poor cooks.

A good plain cook will prepare a comfortable meal from about one-half the materials that will a poor one, as nothing is ever ruined by an attempt at cooking, hence there is nothing to throw away. Mothers can not be too particular in bringing up their daughters in a knowledge how good cooking ought to be done, and if they are not proficient themselves, they should enlist the services of those who are.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

**CURE FOR SNAKE BITES.**—About twenty years ago the Smithsonian Institute embarked in a series of experiments testing the practicability of neutralizing the poison of snakes, founded purely on a chemical basis, which developed great results. The fact was illustrated that the poison of the most venomous rattlesnake can be neutralized in an incredibly short time. After the most extraordinary results from all the experiments witnessed, there was promulgated from the Institute, at the time above mentioned, the following simple but certain cure for snake bites, and for the sting of all kinds of insects: Thirty grains of iodide potassium, thirty grains of iodine, one ounce of water; applied externally to the wound by saturating lint or batting—the same to be kept moist with the antidote until the cure be effected, which will be in one hour, and sometimes instantly. The limb bitten should be corded tight to prevent circulation. The liquid should be kept in a vial, with a glass stopper.

This simple remedy can be obtained at any drug store, and costs but a trifle. Every family might keep a vial of it ready at hand. Fruit gatherers may feel some security in having it about them. Hunters and fishermen may not find it inconvenient to go forth thus prepared for "the mishaps of the hour."—*Farmer's Home Journal.*

**RUNNING UP STAIRS** often practiced, is ruinous to health. An eminent physician once said to us, that he wouldn't go up stairs faster than a walk if the house were on fire and he had valuable property to save. Much walking up stairs is injurious to women, and frequent running up is a sure ticket to heart disease.

### Why do not our Teeth last our Lifetime?

That they are made as perfect, if the right materials are furnished, there cannot be a doubt.

But are the necessary elements furnished to children as they are to the young of the other animals? And do we not subject our teeth to deleterious influences from which animals, as they obey their natural instincts, are exempt?

The forming young of other animals, while dependent on the mother, get lime and phosphorous, and potash, and silex, and all the other elements of which the teeth are composed, from the blood or milk of the mother, and she gets them from the food which nature provides containing these elements in their natural proportions.

But where can the child in its forming state get these necessary elements, whose mothers live principally on starch and butter, and sugar, neither of which contain a particle of lime, phosphorous, potash or silex? Nature performs no miracles. She makes teeth as glass is made, by combining the elements which compose them according to her own chemical principles. And this illustration is more forcible, because the composition of the enamel of the teeth and of glass is very nearly identical; both at least requiring the combination of silex with some alkaline principle.

If, then, the mother of an unborn or nursing infant lives on white bread and butter, pastry and confectionery, which contain no silex, and very little of the other elements which compose the teeth, nothing short of a miracle can give her a child with good teeth, and especially with teeth well enameled.

But what article of food will make good teeth? Good milk will make good teeth, for it makes them for calves. Good meat will make good teeth, for it makes them for lions and wolves. Good vegetables and fruits make good teeth, for they make them for monkeys.

Good corn, oats, barley, wheat, rye, and indeed, everything that grows will make teeth, if eaten in their natural state, no elements being taken out; for every one of them does make teeth for horses, cows, sheep or some other animal. But starch, sugar, lard or butter will not make good teeth. You tried them all with your child's first teeth, and failed; and your neighbors have tried them, and indeed all Christendom has tried them, and the result is that a man or woman at forty with good, sound teeth is a very rare exception.

### EDITORS.

General Lee, it is said, proposes to establish at the University of which he is President, a special department for the training of editors. We confess that, from a man of his reputation and ability, we should not have expected such a scheme.

People who know nothing about newspapers imagine that a good writer must be a good editor. It happens that "good writers" are often worthless in a newspaper office, or worse, and that nothing damages a newspaper more than the attempted "fine writing" which is so common.—There are occasions which call for the highest skill in the expression of thought and the use of language, but those are comparatively rare, and the man who has made a reputation as a writer of well rounded periods, is often quite above—or below—the real work of the editor. Again, there are people who suppose that a man of learning and scholarship must be a competent editor. Not one in a thousand of the scholars or literati or savans, could keep a newspaper alive a single week. The contributions of those gentlemen, with few conspicuous exceptions, are heavier ballast than any newspaper can afford to carry. On the other hand, there are persons, of whom Mr. Greeley is said to be one, who believe that nobody educated at a college can ever edit a newspaper. Men like Raymond have proved that a collegiate education not only is not incompatible with the highest success in

journalism, but contributes greatly to the usefulness and popularity of one who possesses the other requisites.

For, behind all these supposed or real qualifications, there are two absolutely indispensable requisites which no book education, however prolonged or scientific, can impart—common sense, and instinctive appreciation of public taste and public opinion. In some other professions or occupations, profound learning or brilliant genius may in a measure take the place of common sense; in journalism they never can. Three-fourths of the absurd blunders made by journalists spring from the attempt to be brilliant or learned—to take some other than the common-sense view of matters. We doubt whether forty years under the best instructors would give to any man who did not possess it the trick of looking facts squarely in the face. But common sense is needed elsewhere as well; keen and quick comprehension of the tastes and opinions of others is the one faculty without which it is impossible for a journalist to succeed. He must understand what people want to read, and not what will please or interest one class only. He must understand what phases of opinion he has to deal with; must know instinctively how different classes of men will regard this or that event, what errors and prejudices affect the judgments of men, and what suggestions will reach their minds. In a word, the science in which the journalist above all other men must be proficient is, the science of human nature, and that, we imagine, cannot be taught in the college or in any similar institution. It will be learned more quickly by active and varied life, in different occupations and scenes, wholly apart from books, than by any amount of study of the best volumes ever written. The book of the streets—that is the one of all others for the journalist to get familiar with. And that will hardly be a text-book in any university.

No doubt, it is very desirable that journalists should be educated men. But in what shall they be educated? There is no branch of human knowledge that is not desirable for an editor, and yet not one, save the knowledge of human nature, is absolutely indispensable. If he is to be trained especially for his profession, what branches of study shall he pursue? It would puzzle any man to name them. He ought to study modern languages, and yet some very successful journalists get along without any other language living or dead than that in which they write. He must not be a *savant*, and yet he will be expected to know the rudiments of almost every science. He must not be a mere lawyer, tied to precedents, and yet he ought to know something of law. He cannot find time to be a banker, a merchant, a mechanic, or a steamboat or railroad man, but he really ought to know something about each of these interests. If he is a farmer, the less he lets people know it the better, and yet he must know just what sort of facts farmers desire, and understand how all sorts of events affect their interests. We beg to know what sort of study shall be marked out for the journalist?

The common mistake is that journalism means writing—and it does not mean anything of the kind. The ideal newspaper is a succession of photographs of the world in which we live, with such thoughts about each picture, as may inform, interest, elevate and rightly influence others.—The first thing necessary is to get a good picture, and then to have some ideas about it worth reading. No machine education ever yet devised will teach men to paint the world as it is, nor will any education put into an empty head a vigorous thinking faculty. In short, journalists grow; they are not made. Years of experience added to peculiar natural aptitude for that profession are needed, and no special education can give either the aptitude or the experience. Machine-made journalists will prove failures.—*Mo. Democrat.*

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sep18-5t

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